



Maine Department of Health and Human Services

MECMS Update 54

March 13, 2006

Billing News & Tips

Please review your RAs dated 1/31/2006 because you may need to re-bill

Your remittance advice statements (RAs) dated 1/31/2006 are likely to show a large number of denied claims that you haven't seen on previous RAs.

Although these claims are listed on the 1/31/06 RA, many were processed by MECMS on various dates during 2005. The RA will show denial reason codes that were in effect at the time the claim was processed.

If you have an RA dated 1/31/06, review it and re-bill if:

- The denied service has not already been paid on a subsequent claim for the same service, and
either
- MECMS is now paying those claims correctly.
or
- You believe the claim was denied inappropriately.
or
- A provider billing change has been made that corrects for the reported denial reason.

Full service transportation, wheelchair van providers may need to re-bill

Since the new transportation codes went into effect January 2006, some claims have been denied incorrectly. Once we discovered the error, we held the remaining claims in suspense.

If you are a full service transportation and wheelchair van provider, you may have received a denial for missing/incomplete/invalid place of service (M77), missing/incomplete/invalid principal diagnosis (MA63), or claim information is inconsistent with pre-certified/authorized services (N54).

If you believe you received a denial in error, please re-bill.

When a member dies, we check claims for the dates of service

When a MaineCare member dies, the Office of Vital Statistics sends a death record to MECMS where we enter the death record on the MECMS member record. Occasionally, the data we use to match the Vital Statistics death record to the MECMS member record is wrong, either on the Vital Statistics death record or in the MECMS member record, resulting in false matches.

We deny any claim that has a date of service after the date of death which we have on file. If your claim is denied for "Date of death invalid," and you believe that the member isn't deceased or that he or she died after the date of service, call 1-800-321-5557 option 8. We will review the case and make any necessary corrections.

The Transaction Control Number (TCN) tells you how, when a claim was billed

The first nine digits of the Transaction Control Number (TCN) give you information about how and when a claim was billed. The TCN is on your remittance advice statement (RA). Every claim has a TCN.

(Continued on the next page.)

To illustrate how to research a claim, let's use as an example TCN 002005045520029000.

The first two digits determine how the claim was billed: 00 is paper and 99 is electronic. In our example, the claim was billed on paper (00).

The third through sixth digits show the year the claim was billed. In our example, the claim was billed in 2005.

The seventh through ninth digits show which day, out of 365 days in the year (or 366 days in a leap year), that the claim was billed. This is known as a Julian date. In our example, the digits 045 represent the 45th day of the year. That means the billing date was Tuesday, February 14, 2005. To help you determine a Julian date, many printed calendars show the numbered days of the year, and several online tools easily convert dates for you.

The remaining nine digits of the TCN are numbers we use internally in processing your claim.

Sign up today for the provider notification mailing list/OMS listserv

Our listserv is a convenient, fast way for you to get the news you need about billing procedures, changes, and other essential MaineCare provider information.

If you haven't already signed up, do so today at <http://mailman.informe.org/mailman/listinfo/provider/>.

Please remember that the listserv is a one-way communication. Occasionally, providers try to reply to listserv messages. However, we are unable to receive those replies.

If you have any questions about listserv or other information that we've sent you, please call us at 1-800-321-5557 or in the Augusta area at 207-624-7539; or by TTY at 1-800-423-4331.

On dental claims, please be aware of single-digit numbering for teeth 1–9

When billing tooth numbers 1–9, bill single digits only. Don't put a 0 in front of tooth numbers 1–9.

Attachment restrictions are important when you're filing any adjustment

When you file an adjustment claim on either a UB-92, a CMS/HCFA 1500 or a Dental form, don't attach a pink or a green form (the old adjustment forms). ■

Contact Us

Call us at:

1-800-321-5557

TTY: 1-800-423-4331

Augusta area: 207-624-7539

On the web at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms

Write us at:

MaineCare Billing and Information Unit
Office of MaineCare Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011